The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Samuel Gompers said:
Pray! When has it become wrong to request or to demand from congressmen that they afford relief to those who feel burdened or to ask for redress from wrongful legislation or unjust conditions?

WHOLE NO. 2052 — WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* — VOL. 40, NO. 32

Most Crafts Listed 'Critical' By U.S.

Washington.—Most AFL crafts and many other occupations in which AFL unions are dominant are included in the list of critical occupations made public by Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin.

The Department of Defense announced that its deferment policies are based on Secretary Tobin's list of essential activities released by Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer.

The lists will be used, revised and extended as needed, to meet the Korean crisis and defense needs elsewhere.

Following is a partial listing of the critical occupations defined by Secretary Tobin:

Professional and related occupations—marine architect; chemist; chemical, ceramic, civil, electrical, industrial, mechanical, mining, petroleum, sanitary, chief naval engineers; shipmaster; physicist; teacher (critical occupations only); tool and die designer.

Skilled occupations — aircraft and engine mechanic; apprentice (critical occupations only); boilermaker; bricklayer; coremaker; die setter; airplane electrician; foreman (critical occupations only); glass blower; laboratory apparatus instrument repairman; mechanical, machine, maintenance; pipe wright; model maker; molder; patternmaker; precision lens grinder; ship rigger; tool and die maker.

ICFTU Says Rights Covenant Too Weak

(Special Correspondence)

Geneva, Switzerland.—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has raised serious objections against the first draft Covenant on Human Rights prepared by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Government delegates preparing a final draft for UN submission have asked with the ICFTU position.

Representing the ICFTU, Miss Toni Sender, formerly AFL representative to the UN, said that the present draft covenant "should not become world law without essential changes and additions" to a document which, when adopted, would become legally binding on governments. The ICFTU said the draft:

1. Fails to mention the basic economic and social rights such as the right to collective bargaining, maximum working hours, minimum wages.

2. Makes no mention of the right of asylum.

3. Contains weakest kind of enforcement of the covenant. The enforcement machinery excludes the right of petition. Only governments are given the right to bring a complaint to violation of the covenant. Neither individuals nor nongovernmental organizations would be allowed to transmit complaints.

BRIDGES JAILED

San Francisco.— Harry Bridges went to jail August 5.

His activities since the Korean outbreak have been "inimical to the security of the United States," declared U. S. Judge George B. Harris in revoking Bridges' $25,000 bail after a four-day hearing.

Harris sentenced Bridges, president International Longshoremen's Union (formerly CIO), to 5 years last April after he had been found guilty of perjury in denying at his naturalization proceedings in 1945 that he was a Communist. Bridges had been free on bail, pending an appeal.

Defense Briefs

HERE'S C-B SCALE

Washington.—The U. S. Navy wants 70,000 skilled construction men as a standby Seabee (Construction Battalion) force in event of full-scale emergency.

Drawing on their civilian experience, skilled construction men can expect to be raised at some point in the scale between chief petty officer, with a minimum active duty base pay of $198.45 a month, to third class petty officer, with a minimum of $117.60. Additional pay is given for dependents of chief, first and second class petty officers, and for third class petty officers with seven years of experience.

RESERVISTS CALLED

Washington.—The Department of the Army ordered its army commanders to dip into the pool of approximately 1,162,000 male enlisted reservists who are not members of Organized Reserve Corps units and to call 62,000 of them to active duty during September and October for a period of 21 months.

It was added that the first 32,000 called will be in camp by September 15, 1950, and the remaining 30,000 by mid-October.

Selection will be made initially from those who are between 19 and 25 years of age.

Priority will be determined by the number of dependents of the individual reservists. Those with no dependents will be called up first, those with one dependent second, and those with two or more dependents, last.

The reservists will be used primarily to bring the Regular National Guard and Organized Reserve units ordered to active duty, and to perform other duties essential to the current army expansion. This latter group would include key specialists for the most part.

PROGRAM ACTIVATED

Washington.—The U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship put in motion plans for "training in support of the National Defense program."

This program calls for the examination of the need of specific industries for apprenticeable critical skills and a determination if there are sufficient apprentices in training in these crafts to permit a considerable expansion of the wartime of production requiring these craft skills.

RIGHTS PROTECTED

Washington.—National guardsmen whose units are called into federal service are automatically brought under the protection of the veterans' employment rights laws, Secretary of Defense Maurice J. Tobin announced.

Secretary Tobin said that under the provisions of the selective service Act, members of such units who leave other than temporary positions in private industry or with the federal government will be eligible for reinstatement in their old jobs upon release from service if they comply with the provisions of the act.

DEFERMENT POLICY

Washington.—Policies for occupational deferment of members of civilian components, including the Reserves and the National Guard, in the mobilization of the nation's armed forces were announced by Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson.

The basic criteria for, deferment of reservists in such occupations are the Department of Labor list of Critical Occupations and the Department of Commerce list of Essential Activities.

They Plan Strategy

Washington.—Richard Walsh (left), president AFL International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes, who served as chairman of committee which drafted declaration of respect and support of policy by Labor's League, talks with top AFL strategists in two key states, C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer California Federation of Labor, and Philip Hannah (right), secretary-treasurer Ohio Federation of Labor.

ITU Head Says T-H Compels Poll Work

Indianapolis, Ind.—The Taft-Hartley law compels organized labor to enter the political action field.

That is the conclusion of President Woodruff Randolph of the AFL International Typographical Union stated in his annual report to the 92d Convention meeting in Washington, D. C., Aug. 13.

In concluding his report, Mr. Randolph said:

"It is hard for many of us to make a quick decision from complete reliance on purely economic action for betterment of our incomes, hours and working conditions to action also in the political field.

"However, the radical political control of our lives and destinies encompassed in the Taft-Hartley law compels us to do so.

"It is now necessary to our existence as a trade union to devote much more time and work to the election of those who will protect our interests in city, state and national legislation. Failure to do so will most disastrously against us."

Mr. Randolph reported that compared to 1944, wage scales in 1949 were up more than $1 an hour; hours of work were down 24 to 32 per week; membership was up from 80,355 to 89,370, and average earnings were up from $2,650.11 in 1944 to $4,012.18 in 1949.

Registration for the convention opens Aug. 17 and continues through Sun., Aug. 20. The opening convention session will be held Saturday, Aug. 19, at 9:30 a.m., at the Mayflower Hotel. Sessions conclude Friday, Aug. 25.

U. S. Union Listing Has Gompers Photo

Washington.—The 1950 "Directory of Labor Unions in the United States" carries a framed photograph of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, commemorating the 100th anniversary of his birth.

The directory is a comprehensive listing of the names, addresses and principal officers of 500 international unions, with a membership of 14,300,000 and 16,000,000 workers. It was issued by the U. S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The directory also contains a brief history of American trade union structure and membership.

The "Directory of Labor Unions in the United States, 1950" (BLS Bulletin No. 980) is for sale only. It can be purchased through the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 35 cents.

MITCHELL DIES

Ottawa, Canada.—Labor Minister Humphrey Mitchell, 55, a member of the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, died Aug. 1, 1950, after a brief illness. He was associated with the labor movement throughout most of his life—as worker, union official and elected chairman of the Canadian National War Labor Board, Minister of Labor and president of the International Labor Organization in 1946.

Boost Union Label

UNION LABEL Week
SEPTEMBER
1950
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
Labor unions create permanent prosperity, maintain fair wages, secure employment and prevent communism.
SAMUEL GOMPERS
Protect American Standards

Washington.—This poster was issued by the AFL Union Label Trades Department to boost Union Label Week. Department President Matthew Woll urges AFL members to remind their relatives that Labor Day Sunday falls on Sept. 3.

China Underground Still Fighting Reds

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent of AFL News Service

New York.—Free China fights on!

The battle of democratic China against the Soviet imperialists is being waged by a million Chinese comprising an underground army seeking to drive out their totalitarian foe.

Dr. Charles K. Wang, a soft-spoken, American-educated Chinese who recently arrived from Formosa, told the story of how Chinese labor and liberal forces are combating the fight against the communist forces.

Along the east coast of the Chinese mainland from Shanghai to Canton, in Shantung province, in Nanking, Peiping, even in that communist "forbidden city," the liberal provinces—Chinese underground warriors are mounting daily carrying the fight to their communist foe.

Dr. Wang represents the Free China Labor League which in turn is affiliated with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. It is endorsed by the CIO's Free Trade Union Committee.

A scholar-looking, bespectacled middle-aged man, Dr. Wang was educated at the University of Chicago and is a specialist in social psychology. He has taught at the Central University of Nanking and was on the faculty of the National University of Peiping.

He disclosed that part of the underground's activities consists of aerial "bombardments" of an unusual nature—the missiles dropped are not high explosive but bags of rice which contain notes and propaganda about the struggle to overthrow the new tyranny over the Chinese people.

Dr. Wang also disclosed that for the first time in the Orient, an imposing program of social legislation has been adopted on Formosa by the Kuomintang government. The entire labor movement, comprising 250,000 workers, joined this program which became effective April 1.

52,000 Gain 11½c In California

San Francisco.—A 11-cent per hour pay boost for 14,000 journeymen carpenters of the San Francisco Bay Area highlighted recent wage gains won by American Federation of Labor Unions throughout California.

The carpenters' rate brings their hourly scale up to $2.571, or $19 per day, commencing July 29, as a result of negotiations which extended most of the July 4th weekend. The settlement came at the end of a one-day strike, called on July 3.

Wage increases and other advances won by AFL unions in June averaged an estimated 11 1/2 cents for the 52,000 workers involved. This represents the highest monthly gain registered within the past year.

Average boost for June of 1949 was 5 cents per hour.

Bates Joins Move To Get Housing

Washington.—Chairman Harry C. Bates of the AFL Housing Committee joined 21 representatives of other national organizations asking President Truman to assure sufficient good housing to meet all needs in connection with the expanded national defense program.

Mr. Bates, AFL vice president, signed the letter to Mr. Truman which said in part:

"The continuing housing shortage will be intensified by many factors. The government's powers and programs in the housing field should be used immediately to relieve these shortages.

"We regret that the only action so far taken has seriously restricted the vitally needed public housing program, while only superficial attention has been applied to the private housing field.

"We urge that a national housing policy be established to assure labor and materials available for civilian use into the defense program to maintain a number of standard permanent homes, single or multiple, adequate and available at the lowest possible rentals or sales prices, in accordance with national plans for increased production and local housing needs.

"It is in the national interest that priority be given to moderate priced housing and to the rental housing so distinguished from high priced or luxury housing, thus maximizing existing preferences for homes for veterans."

Meany Says Co-ops Aid Urban Workers

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany restated the determination of the AFL to encourage the development of consumer cooperatives.

"Well-managed consumers cooperatives can offer unions an important service in addition to the buying power of their income, and it is my belief that the cooperative movement needs to be strengthened and expanded by extending its services to include urban workers," Mr. Meany said.

Mr. Meany's statement came in response to a resolution adopted by the Consumers Cooperative of Cooperative Wholesale in Superior, Wis., calling upon consumers to develop harmonious relations with labor.

"May I take this opportunity," Mr. Meany said, "to express our appreciation of the services given by your affiliated cooperative wholesales throughout the country in helping our unions to establish consumers cooperatives where an interest in them has developed among our membership. The services of your expert staff personnel has been indispensable in these cases."

AFL Formally Asks Excess Profit Tax

SUE COMPANY

Atlanta, Ga.—The AFL United Textile Workers brought suit for $500,000 damages under the Taft-Hartley law against Pacific Mills, Lawrence, Mass., for failure to abide by its contract on handling grievances and vacation payment for 4,000 employes represented by Local 194.

The suit is one of the few ever brought by a union against an employer under Taft-Hartley.

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor submitted to the Senate Finance Committee comprehensive tax recommendations which would increase federal revenues for the defense program but would "work less hardship on those in the lower income groups" than the administration's new tax program.

The main recommendations in the AFL program follow:

1. Do not increase tax rates on corporations or individuals that would result in higher prices, but instead impose an excess profits tax which would discourage inflationary price increases and yield $2.2 billions more in revenue.

2. Plug up tax loopholes, substantially increase estate and gift taxes, and eliminate special depletion allowances.

3. Do not restore high 1945 individual income tax rates, but adopt a more equitable method which would include a cost-of-living tax adjustment to those in the bottom of the income scale or adoption of a graduated rate schedule on earned net income "that would operate to maintain the principle of general sacrifice more nearly on the basis of ability to pay."

The AFL statement told the Senate Finance Committee by Vice President Matthew Woll, chairman of the federation's Tax Committee, recommendations for a corporation tax rate increase on the ground that corporations have been able to make up for the tax loss and also because of the necessity to levy large amounts of profits, would be adversely affected.

"Such corporations naturally and logically will be expected to exert pressure to increase prices or would be forced out of business," the statement said.

AFL tax proposals "would satisfy, need and equity" for adopting one into the other and meeting periods of high level economic activity and periods of economic crisis, Mr. Woll.

It pointed out that consumption taxes have been considerably reduced since the war years and that taxpayers have since been reaping record profits far in excess of those ever before realized in a peace-time economy.

The statement urged Secretary of Treasury Snyder's recommendation of Jan. 16, 1948, for a $50,000 exemption of excess profits and a 75 percent tax rate on profits, and estimated that only 22,000 corporations out of 300,000 reporting corporations in the country would be affected.

Proposed reductions in 1945 individual income tax rates would be inequitable, the AFL said, since they are those below the $2,000 income bracket, for these reasons: higher living costs, higher state and local taxes, and the cumulative effect of these factors upon which burden low-income consumers are disproportionately hit.

The graduated rate schedule proposed by the AFL would lessen the hardship on low income groups and would tend to offset the inequities in the benefits of split-income provisions which now give the most help to those only income groups over $5,000.

America United Name Is Changed

Washington.—National Broadcasting Company's "University of United" labor-management-agriculture series has changed the name of same. The new title is "The First Freedom."

The concept of freedom of speech, as keynote of the series, will be given open discussion program, will be unsponsored beneficial in the weekly continuity. The show is heard on the network, every Sunday, 3:30 p.m., EDT, and on WNBC only, Thursdays, 11:30 p.m., EDT.

The series, regularly devoted to round table discussions of current and important social, economic and political problems, was launched on the network in cooperation with 6 groups: American Federation of Labor, Congress of Industrial Organizations, National Grange, American Farm Bureau Federation and United States Chamber of Commerce. The groups present the program alternately.

JOBS INCREASE

Washington.— Employment in industrial and commercial establishments increased by more than 800 between May and June, reaching a 1950 peak of 45,000,000, the U. S. Department of Labor announced.

The June level was 1,000,000 more than the same month in 1949 and is a continuation of the upward phase which has added 2,000,000 workers since the 1950 low point.

GET PAY RAISE

New York.—A 2-man arbitration panel has awarded 35,000 workers in 176 hotels here a pay increase ranging from $1.38 to $4 a week. The AFL Hotels Trades Council announced the wage hike will mean $7,000,000 yearly.

The raise is retroactive to June 1 and either party may apply for reconsideration of wages next year. Prior to the agreement, the minimum for maids was $26.50 a week; dishwashers, $26; elevator operators, $35.60; waiters, $30; service barmaids, $40; telephone operators, $26; porters, $21. The minimum for chefs was $60-$65 and for bell boys $17.10-$20.

AFL Publications Battle Moscow Literature in Asian Countries

Bangkok, Thailand.—AFL publications are the only printed material received in many Asian countries outside of that received from Moscow.

Richard Deverall, AFL representative in Asia, reported to AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany that "both in Pakistan and Burma the demand for AFL magazines and propaganda material is very considerable.

"Even our friends here say that the only printed material they receive comes from either the World Federation of Trade Unions (communist controlled) or Moscow," he said.

Mr. Deverall is accompanying the Asian mission of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions on its 2-months survey of free trade unionism and economics in Asian countries. Gordon W. Chapman, secretary-treasurer AFL State, County and Municipal Workers, is the AFL representative on the mission.

At a news conference in Rangoon, Burma, members of the mission expressed confidence in the vitality of the free trade unions of Burma.

"We are sure," the delegation said, "that the free workers of Burma will join hands with the 50,000,000 toiling workers and peasants of the ICFTU in the glorious struggle to eliminate colonialism, imperialism and the exploitation of workers and peasants."

Champion Blood Donor

Philadelphia.—Otto Weber (left), stationary engineer, member of the AFL Engineers, Firemen and Oilers Local 473, Philadelphia, checks off one of the highest records for blood donations in the nation with a score of 78 since 1942. Mr. Weber, who resides in Ruddendall, N. J., and who represents his union in the Philadelphia Central Labor Union, puts the check on scoreboard held by Nurse Vivian Mayer of Philadelphia Red Cross Blood Center.

COOKE PICKED

Washington.—Dwight Cooke, Columbia Broadcasting System broadcaster, will serve as special commentator for the National Conference Aging here Aug. 13, 14 and 15.

Some 800 delegates from all parts of the country representing business, labor, medicine, education, religion, and other interested groups will consider problems of employment, income, health, education, living arrangements and community life.

Mr. Cooke has arranged to broadcast his talk, "Aging, Yes, But the World," and his Sunday program, "People's Platform," from conference headquarters.

MEETS AUG. 21

Washington.—The AFL National Federation of Post Office Clerks planned for the largest convention in history when the 26th biennial meeting opens in Cleveland, Ohio, public auditorium Aug. 21.

DEWEY DIES

Frackville, Pa.—James F. Dewey, 62, widely known among AFL members as a federal labor mediator, died here following a 2-year illness.

Back GIs With Bonds

Chicago.—Immediately after President Truman asked Congress for $10,000,000,000 to win the war in Korea and arm the U. S. against communist aggression elsewhere, Business Manager Eugene J. Atkinson (center), acting for Meeting Pickers Machine Operators Local 118, Chicago, wrote a check for the union's purchase of $15,000 in U. S. savings bonds. With him are U. S. Treasury Labor Representative George Moore (left) and Local 110 Secretary-Treasurer Clarence A. Jalas (right).

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Samuel Gompers said:

Truth is an eternal verity, and our cause needs only to be understood in order to win the support of all sympathetic, patriotic and right-principled men.

U. S. Housing Curbs Hurt Wage Earners

Chicago.—President Truman dealt a disappointing blow to the nation's wage earners by restricting housing in "an extremely unequitable manner" and "even before any attempt was made to limit non-essential nonresidential construction," the AFL Executive Council said.

The council adopted a policy statement on housing at its August meeting which called for a review of the entire construction program, no further cutback in low-rent public housing, passage by Congress of a cooperative housing program for middle income families, extension and strengthening of rent control, and steps to assure decent housing for war workers.

Mr. Truman issued orders restricting residential construction as his first economic action in connection with the Korean crisis and the nation's new defense needs.

Following is the text of the council's statement on housing:

I. Basic Considerations

The American Federation of Labor recognizes that the requirements of the Korean situation and defense mobilization may necessitate the establishment of certain sectors of the civilian economy.

In cutting back the civilian economy, we must remember that the country's preparedness for the difficult times ahead will be affected not only by the amount of these cutbacks, but also by the manner in which they will be carried out. Production of items essential for an adequate standard of living must be given priority over the production of luxury goods.

The application of this principle is particularly appropriate in the case of housing. It is a well-known fact that the comparatively high rate of residential construction during the postwar years has not been sufficient to eliminate the housing shortage. Housing today is perhaps in shorter supply than any other important item in the family budget.

The housing shortage is still particularly acute among low and middle income families. Since the war, almost no housing has been built that low-income families can afford, and very little for families in the middle-income group. It is, therefore, most important that whatever residential construction is permitted should be devoted primarily to meeting the housing needs of low and middle income families.

II. Toward an Equitable Housing Policy

In the light of these considerations, we are disappointed that the very first economic action taken by the President was to restrict residential construction, even before any effort was made to limit nonessential nonresidential construction. Housing has been restricted, moreover, in an extremely unequitable manner. The restrictions which the President issued on residential construction will have two major effects:

(1) They will reduce the scope of the much needed low-rent public housing program for low-income families. The cut-back will amount to at least 25 percent over the number of construction which had been scheduled for the next 6 months. In fact, the rate of construction permitted in the curtailed public housing program during the remainder of 1950 is less than half of that authorized by the Housing Act of 1949.

(2) Down payments have been substantially increased for privately built housing constructed under the FHA and VA programs. This will make it very difficult for families without large accumulated savings to purchase any new privately built housing.

The restricted housing program will produce dwellings almost exclusively for higher income groups. The immediate results, in terms of conservation of materials and manpower, moreover, seem to have been nil.

Because we recognize that the President's restrictions were essentially an emergency action which are not necessarily represent a permanent policy, we are urging that our entire housing program policy now be reconsidered. We would suggest that the following principles be applied in our general housing policy during the coming period:

(1) **Review of entire construction program;** limitation on those parts of construction industry utilizing unnecessary quantities of scarce materials needed for defense program.

(2) No further cut-back in the low-rent public housing program for low-income families. Since this program represents the only possible means by which low-income families can obtain decent housing, it would be entirely unfair for the group with the most acute housing need to be cut off from the only method of obtaining such housing.

(3) Passage by Congress of the cooperative housing program for middle-income families which was approved by a narrow margin in the present session of Congress. This program is all the more necessary because of increased down payments and higher selling prices for the newly built houses deprive this group of any chance for new housing.

(4) Instead of increasing down payment requirements for homes built under the FHA and VA programs, all classes of luxury housing should be directly prohibited. This will result in conserving building materials and manpower and at the same time will establish a more equitable distribution of new housing among the various income groups.

III. Special Requirements in Expanding Communities

It is very important that some of the disastrous experiences in the war housing program be avoided. We should not be repeated during the present period. Wherever industrial areas are expanded as a result of the defense effort, there must be adequate provision for war production areas, these workers must be assured of adequate housing and adequate community facilities.

IV. Need for Strengthened Rent Control

Recognizing the restricted shortage of housing in many areas of the country, the American Federation of Labor has consistently opposed the ending of the rent control law. It is obvious that the rent control law which was recently passed by the Congress is certainly not adequate for the period which we are entering.

Rent controls must be continued beyond Dec. 31, 1950, and unless there is a drastic change in the international situation beyond June 30, 1951. The rent control law must be immediately amended not only to provide for extension beyond its present date of expiration, but also to permit recontrol of decontrolled communities. The Housing Expediter should be given sufficient funds to permit a strict enforcement of rent control and to prevent a skyrocketing of rents.

201 CITIES ASK HOUSING FUNDS

Washington.—Reservations of capital grant funds under the 1949 Slum Clearance and Urban Redevelopment program have been made or proposed ship clearance projects for 201 localities in the continental United States and insular possessions.

Reservations are made on requests by governing bodies of local communities, which certify in official resolutions that the communities intend to proceed by July 1, 1951, with projects qualified for federal aid under terms of Title I of the Housing Act of 1949.

Hire Handicapped To Help Arm Nation

Washington.—President Truman said the employment of physically handicapped workers is essential to strengthening the nation to win the war in Korea and prepare for all-out defense.

AFL representatives heard the President's appeal delivered to the sixth annual meeting of the President's Committee on National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.

Mr. Truman said in part:

"I urge this committee to redouble its efforts to place before all the employers of this nation, and all the groups concerned with employment, the very simple message that the physically handicapped can and should be employed. Only in this way can we enable the handicapped to play their full part in strengthening our nation.

"Every year more groups and more individuals are participating in this great campaign to employ the physically handicapped. I have just signed the proclamation designating the week beginning Oct. 1 as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. The observance of that week is vitally important, but our campaign is not just a one-week affair. While our public appeal will be concentrated in that week, the job of securing employment for the handicapped has now become a year-round effort.

"This problem of the physically handicapped is a tremendous one. We must attack it in 2 ways:

"First, we must do everything we can to prevent disabling accidents and diseases.

"Second, we must improve our skills and increase our efforts for rehabilitating those who are disabled."

ESSAY WINNERS

Washington.—Peggy Lord, of Cuero, Texas, High School, has been named top winner in national NEPH Essay Contest sponsored by the President's Committee of National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.

Second was Anne Manning, St. Xavier's Academy, Fort MacMahon; third, Joan Welsh, Nampa High School, Nampa, Idaho; fourth, Felicia Kenower, R. J. Delano School, Kansas City, Mo.

First prize of $1,000 was contributed by the Disabled American Veterans, Inc. Prizes of $400, $300 and $200, for second, third and fourth places, were donated by the International Association of Machinists. Two prizes of $50 each for honorable mention were awarded to Ann MacIntosh to Jerry Jones, Holmes High School, Covington, Ky., and Mary Ellen Shipley, Lake Charles High School, Lake Charles, La.

New York Federation Girds to Win Political Fights and to Oust Reds

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Bureau Chief for AFL News Service

New York.—The 87th annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor closed with a declaration that communism—"the enemy of freedom"—must be destroyed "wherever found."

Unanimously adopted by the more than 1,000 delegates at the week-long session here, the statement commended the Truman Administration for its policy "in challenging and meeting this unprovoked Communist aggression" in Korea.

The delegates also warned that the state AFL would resist "any effort under the guise of war, to emasculate the rights of labor to bargain collectively and" urged that "wherever it is found to be necessary and desirable in the interest of our armed success in the present crisis, to be assured that the law be restored to its original, fair and just basis, with full vigor upon cessation of hostilities."

In a report to the convention, Joseph Murray, state AFL president, who succeeded the late Thomas Murphy, with Secretary-Treasurer Harold C. Pomeroy, called upon local affiliates to clean house of communists and fellow travelers from their ranks. He said:

"I charge you to go back to your local unions and oust from your ranks any member who you have reason to believe will not stand up and be counted on the side of free men when the time comes for a showdown between communism and democracy.

A major plank in the platform was announcement of support for Labor's Non-Partisan Political Committee. Coincident with this resolution, the state AFL announced the appointment of former Magistrate Charles Solomon as its special political representative. The announcement was made jointly by Murray and Lacey.

Murray said Lacey:

"We must concentrate on registration first and foremost in the 5 counties to the polls. There can be no government for the people without government by the people, and it cannot be said that there is government by the people when about a third of the qualified electorate vote, as was the case in 1946, when we got the 80th Congress and the Taft-Hartley Law."

The federation also indicated it would strongly support the reelection of Sen. Herbert H. Lehman in the fall.

MEXICO TOUR

Houston, Tex.—Delegates to the AFL 60th convention opening here Sept. 18 may arrange a post-session convention tour to Mexico by communication with the Mexican Confederation Workers AFL Trades and Labor Council.

The tour, leaving San Antonio by way of Missouri Pacific and National Railways of Mexico, would take a day in Mexico City with side visits to Taxco, Puebla and other scenic spots.

Rates for the all-expense trip may be obtained through Mr. Wilson.

C. of C. Sabotaged N. J. Job Service

Newark, N. J.—Secretary of Labor Tobin's directive to utilize the U. S. Employment Service to make manpower available to defense contractors, action "will prove unworkable in New Jersey because the State Employment Service has become a practical nullity due to subordination to private employment agencies," the state AFL charged in a public statement signed by Louis P. Marciante, president.

Marciante asserted that legislation passed 2 years ago "upon the demand of the state Chamber of Commerce" now makes ineffective the usefulness of the U. S. Employment Service as a clearing house for a potential labor supply for defense needs. He insisted there be speedy repeal of the 1947 legislation. He declared:

"In 1947 the state Chamber of Commerce obtained passage of legislation which required job applicants and unemployed claimants to prove that they were actively seeking work. Quite obviously the purpose of this legislation was to circumvent the necessity that Gov. Driscoll and the legislature cies to the SES and thereby require unemployed persons to register not only by going to the SES as they should have since been required by state law, but also by registering with private employment agencies."

"We feel that the state Chamber of Commerce owes it to the people of this state to join with us in insisting that Gov. Driscoll and the legislature take steps immediately to repeal the 1947 legislation so that pursuant to the request of the country's leadership, our SES can do a real job at this vital period of national mobilization and emergency."

HOUSTON DEFEAT

Houston, Tex.—The National Housing Conference called the defeat of public low-rent housing in a referendum on July 22 "a major American tragedy." The vote was 33,141 to 22,066.

The conference said:

"The Houston fight was a major American tragedy."

AFL Demands Price Curbs, Profits Tax, No Wage Freeze

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of AFL News Service

Chicago.—The AFL Executive Council demanded immediate control of prices at their June levels but no pay controls until wages have risen enough at least to meet higher living costs and "a basis of parity" with the prices climb since the outbreak of the Korean war.

The council demanded that Congress enact an effective excess profits tax, grant Congress the power to President Truman, and repeal the Taft-Hartley Law.

There is no need for compulsory manpower controls, the council said.

The council denounced the Korean aggression flatly as an "invasion . . . by Soviet Russia," and warned that the communists may start other fires in the world at the will of their leadership. Preparation for defense must be broad and world-wide, the council declared.

In their program, announced at the annual summer meeting in Chicago, the AFL leaders recognized that "inevitably wage controls may become necessary." But, they said a "freeze" of existing wage rates would be unfair, and would injure the national economy irreparably.

"Wages have already fallen far behind the rising cost of living," the council declared. "Wages, therefore, must be permitted to rise through the process of collective bargaining, and otherwise, to meet these higher living costs and to establish a basis of parity.

"Wage adjustments must embrace as well compensation for increased productivity and, in addition, machinery must be provided for the adjustment of labor disputes and adjustment of grievances, and that must be adequately represented on such boards or commissions.

Asked if the council meant labor would offer a no-strike pledge, William Green, AFL president, said such a pledge would be discussed when asked for by the government.

The AFL program arrives for discussing a no-strike pledge," he said, "we will be ready for a meeting of labor, management and the government as we were before (in the World War II mobilization)."

Without the factories, unemployed workers and plentiful material of 1939, the United States cannot produce adequately for defense without drastic cuts in the low-rent peacetime industrial production, the council said.

Pointing out that hoarding, price-raising and speculative buying already are threatening a runaway inflation, the council said drastic measures must be prompt and effective. Without them, the cost of living will grow up 15 percent since June 23, it is asserted.

Specifically, the council proposed:

That prices be controlled at levels of June, preceding the Korean outbreak.

That taxes be raised, in accordance with ability to pay.

That excess profits taxes be made effective, to stop war profiteering.

That the President be authorized to control the distribution of scarce materials heavy industries and allocate materials with priorities for defense needs.

That, to avoid strikes, there be guided by voluntary cooperation of labor, management and government representatives, with no compulsion of workers for jobs in private industry.

That the foregoing program be on pay one for the American people to the standard of the world over the forces of communist aggressors.

The defense emergency is one more good reason for knocking out the Taft-Hartley Law, the council said. Its repeal was described as essential to labor-management cooperation.

U. S. Must Act to Halt Runaway Price Rise Already 15 Percent Above June

Chicago.—Following is the text of the AFL Executive Council statement on the national emergency growing out of the Korean war, adopted Aug. 10:

The unwarrantable and unjustified invasion of South Korea by Soviet Russia must be regarded as an isolated incident.

Communist aggressors may start other fires anywhere in the world at points whenever their leaders determine the time is opportune. Therefore, Soviet Russia and her satellites would not hesitate to attack the United States directly if they believed they could do so successfully.

Our national program and that of the democratic nations of the world must therefore be sufficiently broad to provide adequately for all of these contingencies. It cannot and must not be confined merely to the immediate needs of the present situation of Korea.

When the United States undertook its defense program in 1940, many idle factories, unemployed workers and plentiful supplies of materials were available. Today, with peacetime industrial production at an all-time peak, defense orders for new equipment cannot be filled without drawing upon a substantial portion of our going national production.

Our foreign aid program is an integral part of our national and free world defense program. The ECA and Point Four programs supplement our defense effort and are equally essential to the security of the Communist and to world peace. They cannot be curtailed without jeopardizing our own security and the free world.

These considerations lead to the inescapable conclusion: We can no longer safely continue on a "business as usual" basis. We must mobilize our full strength to increase the production and adjust our economy to meet our needs and those of the free nations of the world.

There is no painless way to make the necessary changes in our national economy. The defense program initiated has already precipitated a wave of speculative buying, unjustified price increases, hoarding, and a serious threat of runaway inflation. Prices of basic commodities have advanced 15 percent since June 23.

These trends and developments cannot continue without serious consequences to the well being of all our people. It is evident an unchecked inflation can and will wreck our defense program. It can only help those who wish to weaken and destroy our free institutions. We must cope with this problem promptly and realistically. We urge that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor take the following program:

1. **Wages**—Price controls should be put into effect as soon as possible at levels prevailing during the month preceding the outbreak of the Korean war.

2. **Taxes**—Taxes must be increased on a basis reflecting a genuine ability to pay. Congress must be given an effective excess profits tax because the best way of combating inflation is to take the profits out of profiteering. Tax loopholes should be closed, estate and gift taxes should be strengthened. Congress should enact a progressive schedule of income tax rates, in accordance with ability to pay, as recommended to the Senate Finance Committee by the tax committee of the American Federation of Labor.

3. **Wages**—We realize that inevitably wage controls may become necessary. However, we would point out that any attempt to freeze wages at present rates would do an irreparable injury to the economy and deal unfairly and unjustly with the wage earners of our land. Wages have already fallen far behind the rising cost of living. Wages, therefore, must be permitted to rise through the process of collective bargaining and otherwise, to meet these higher living costs and to establish a basis of parity. Wage adjustments must embrace as well compensation for increased productivity and in addition machinery must be provided for the adjustment of labor disputes and adjustment of grievances and labor must be adequately represented on such boards or commissions.

4. **Manpower and material controls**—The President should be given standby power to ration consumer goods whenever shortages develop and to regulate heavy industries and allocate scarce materials so that defense needs will have adequate priorities.

5. **Manpower**—There is no need for compulsory and rigid manpower controls. The problem of providing sufficient trained workers to man defense industries can be best solved by the voluntary cooperation of labor, management and government representatives. Any attempt to draft workers for jobs in private industry, operating at full-time profit, will defeat itself and prove disastrous to the war effort.

The foregoing program is not an easy one for the American people to take, especially as there is no present

Chicago.—Labor League for Political Education set Aug. 15 for the start of a 6-week intensive campaign to Oct. 1 to obtain full registration of all AFL members, their families and friends for the November congressional elections.

The AFL Executive Council, meeting here, agreed to turn over one day of the 6-week campaign, designated as Houston on Sept. 15 to the 1950 political campaign. Tentative plans call for inviting senatorial spokesmen for the Democratic and Republican parties to discuss the issues of the 1950 congressional elections.

The registration drive will be a gigantic burst of steam, augmenting the year-long effort of many AFL affiliates, to get all of labor's votes qualified to ballot in November.

The administrative committee of Labor's League for Political Education, which met during the council session, announced a drive for registration would be started on Aug. 15 to Oct. 1 to obtain full registration for the November congressional elections.

"In the industrial states we feel we have the votes to win if we can prevail upon the voters to register and go to the polls," said President Green.

"We are confident we will succeed in defeating Sen. Taft in Ohio as decisively as Sen. Ball was defeated in Minnesota, Sen. Revercomb in West Virginia and Sen. Brooks in Illinois, in 1948. The issues are the same."

HOUSE PASSES PRICE BILL

Washington.—The House passed Aug. 10, by 383 to 12, an economic mobilization bill giving President Truman sweeping authority and wide discretion to invoke price, wage and rationing controls, to expand defense production, to allocate and requisition materials, and to curb various forms of hoarding.

The bill went to the Senate where debate was just getting underway on an almost identical bill.

The U. S. Labor Department reported that a July 21 market basket showed that 18 of 25 foods rose in price between July 1 and July 31, including bread, eggs, hamburger, coffee, bacon and sugar. Prices were higher generally in 7 of the 15 cities surveyed.

Asks House Kill Knowland Ripper

Washington.—Rep. Walter A. Lynch of New York in a rare letter to House colleagues, asked them to kill an amendment to the conference report on the Social Security Act which would serve to include permanent and total disability insurance. He referred to the Knowland amendment which wrecks workers' rights to compensation.

Congressman Lynch did not support the conference report because it does not include the provision already voted by the House to protect against disability but it does include the Knowland ripper.

"It is quite possible that a simple motion to recommit will be offered, or a motion to recommit with certain instructions, but without reference to the Knowland amendment," Mr. Lynch said. "Either of such motions will be designed to freeze the Knowland amendment into the bill and will be definitely aimed at undermining by the entire employment insurance program and should be defeated."

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